

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1-40 and 90-98 to recite absorbent articles. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 8. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following alleged inventions:

- I. Claims 1-40 and 90-98, drawn to a containment tissue; and
- II. Claims 41-89 and 99-100, drawn to an absorbent article comprising a containment tissue.

Applicants hereby elect Group II for prosecution on the merits. Applicants have amended Claims 1-40 and 90-98 to recite absorbent articles, and assert that these amended claims are now properly classified in Group II. Applicants reserve the right

to proceed with prosecution of claims directed to the subject matter of Group I in one or more divisional patent applications.

The Examiner has also required election of one of the following alleged patentably distinct species:

- Species 1 - Figure 1;
- Species 2 - Figure 2;
- Species 3 - Figure 3;
- Species 4 - Figure 4;
- Species 5 - Figure 5;
- Species 6 - Figure 6;
- Species 7 - Figure 7;
- Species 8 - Figure 8.

The Examiner states that no claim is considered generic.

Applicants respectfully assert that at least amended independent Claim 1 is generic to all other claims. FIG. 1 illustrates an absorbent article comprising a containment sheet, according to one embodiment of the invention. FIGS. 2-7 illustrate embodiments of containment sheets that can be used in, for example, the absorbent article illustrated in FIG. 1. FIG. 8 is a sectional view of an absorbent article having a containment tissue wrapped around the absorbent core.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, species 1, as identified by the Examiner. Applicants assert at least Claims 1-72 and 90-99 are readable thereon.

Serial No.: 10/032,805

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Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Swanson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark D. Swanson
Regis. No. 48,498

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road
Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195
(847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403